

Saint Patrick Catholic School



St. Patrick Catholic School

Student/Family Handbook

Updated 8/2017

Saint Patrick's Catholic School Student/ Family Handbook

This handbook is intended to serve as a guide for working towards a better realization of the philosophy, goal, and objectives of St. Patrick's Catholic School by providing the students and parents with a common understanding of the spirit and general regulations of the school. The following provisions of this handbook address only the specific areas referenced. New situations may arise during the school year that require the implementation of additional policies and disciplinary actions as well as adjustment of existing policies and procedures. The administration expressly reserves their right to draft, institute and enforce any new policies and to adjust existing policies in order to improve the school atmosphere and education of our students. The students and their parents expressly waive any right to contest the administrations right to adopt new policies, approve additional disciplinary actions, and change existing policies.

St. Patrick's is a pre-kindergarten through eighth grade Catholic School operated by St. Patrick's Catholic Church, under the direction of the Bishop of the Diocese of Lincoln and the Pastor of St. Patrick's parish. As a state approved school with degreed and certified teachers, St. Patrick's School abides by all state requirements and regulations. The classrooms are self-contained with specialty teachers in band, vocal music, computer, and physical education.

Educational Philosophy

Saint Patrick's Catholic School seeks to provide opportunities for the students and staff to participate in the practice of their faith and to create an atmosphere supportive of religious values. St. Patrick's recognizes that God has entrusted the parents of our students as the primary educators of their children and works to assist them with this task.

Mission Statement: The mission of Saint Patrick's Catholic School family is to form students who possess strong religious values, academic integrity, individual responsibility, and a clear sense of citizenship.

Goals:

- To create strong Catholic children who understand their faith and can live it out daily.
- To impart knowledge, develop understanding, and cultivate an appreciation for the basic academic subjects.
- To emphasize respect for and recognition of the dignity of all human beings.
- To assist along the path of the ultimate goal which is salvation of immortal souls and knowledge of their responsibility to God.

Admission: St. Patrick's Catholic School exists primarily to assist faithful, practicing Catholic parents in the education of their children. Parents are the primary educators of their children and should work closely with the school to provide a high-quality education for their children. St. Patrick's School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national, or ethnic origin and promotes an atmosphere of inclusion and diversity.

Attending St. Patrick's School is a privilege and requires the communication, stewardship, and positive support from parents and the entire school family. An annual registration will be conducted in the spring of every school year for currently enrolled students. Parents will be allowed to register their children provided tuition and fees are paid and the payment form has been completed. If students are registered in another parish a verification form must be filled out by the pastor of that parish and returned to the school to qualify for the Parish Stewardship Scholarship rate. According to Nebraska State Law, to begin Kindergarten the child must be five years old on or before July 31st. Preschool students must be three or four years old by July 31st of the current year.

A physical examination as prescribed by the State Department of Education is required of all pupils before entrance into school, and when beginning the seventh grade, or transferring from out of state. In addition, prior to entering school, every

pupil shall be immunized against measles, rubella, poliomyelitis, diphtheria, pertussis, hepatitis B, chicken pox (two vaccinations), and tetanus.

As part of the initial registration, parents should provide a copy of the students' birth certificate as well as certificates from the reception of sacraments. If the student is transferring from another school; academic and health records will be requested.

Illness and Vaccination Policy

We are not allowed to have students at the school if they have had an illness associated with fever, orally communicable condition such as diarrhea, ringworm, impetigo, head lice, pink eye, etc. Children must be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school. Anytime your child is not going to be at school, we require that you call and notify us before 9:00am.

Students must be vaccinated according to state requirements in order to be enrolled in the Lincoln Catholic Schools. The only exceptions acknowledged by the diocese are those for medical reasons and for which a physician has signed a waiver form. Personal Conscience forms may be submitted as a sworn and notarized affidavit listing which required immunizations have not been received. Although an exemption may not be claimed on the basis that use of current immunizations directly violates Catholic religious-moral teaching, parents may discern the issues in accord with their well-formed consciences. However, key elements of the Church's teaching on immunization must be read and parents/guardians must sign an affidavit affirming that these are ecclesial teachings to which Catholics must offer "a religious submission of the intellect and will." The school is to receive an assurance from parents/guardians that they understand and accept the risks associated with the omission of immunization. If a disease for which the child is not immunized breaks out in the community (or if the child contracts the disease), then the child will not be allowed to attend school until the outbreak is contained (or the child recovers and presents a release from a medical professional or physician's note assuring recovery). The school is not obligated to modify services during this time.

Tuition and Fees

We do not have "tuition" at St. Patrick's in order to make our school affordable and accessible to all. Therefore, parents who enroll their children at St. Patrick's School are expected to fulfill their duty to faithfully tithe to the Church through Stewardship and read the Parish Stewardship Scholarship Information handout (see Appendix A). On average it costs St. Patrick's Parish \$3,500.00 per year to educate one child.

Book Fee

The book fee form must be filled out with the registration packet in the spring or when the child enrolls in the school. A payment plan must be indicated and signed by parent/guardian and the Parish Stewardship Scholarship Information handout must be read. Payment plan options are monthly, quarterly, twice a year, or annually. A statement will be sent each month at the beginning and the payment will be due by the 15th of the month.

Rates for those Registered at St. Patrick's Church or a Supporting Catholic Parish (must have form filled out and returned to qualify verifying other parish registration.)

	One Child	Two Children	Three Children	Four Children	Five Children
Cost to Educate	\$ 3,562	\$ 7,124	\$ 10,686	\$ 14,248	\$ 17,810
Parish Stewardship Scholarship	\$ 3,122	\$ 6,364	\$ 9,706	\$ 13,268	\$16,830
Family Pays	\$ 500	\$ 925	\$ 1,275	\$ 1,275	\$ 1,275

Rates for Non-Catholic and Catholics Not Registered at St. Patrick's or a Supporting Catholic Parish:

	One Child	Two Children	Three Children	Four Children	Five Children
Cost to Educate	\$ 4,088	\$ 8,176	\$ 12,264	\$ 16352	\$ 20,440
Parish Scholarship	\$1,988	\$3,976	\$5,964	\$7,952	\$9,940
Family Pays	\$2,100	\$4,200	\$6,300	\$8,400	\$10,500

Field Trip and Fundraising Donation: \$25 per child:

In previous years, money was collected by the teachers for each student for the STARS fundraiser, Soup Supper, Learning Fair, and field trip costs. In order to accommodate parents' request, please include a \$25 per child donation with the payment form. With this change, there will be no request for this money throughout the school year.

Diocesan School Office Fee: \$25 per child:

This fee helps supplement the cost of the Diocese of Lincoln Education Office. This includes the office of the superintendent. This is a required fee.

Preschool

All 4 year old preschool students pay a snack/field trip/fundraising fee of \$75 (to reserve their spot) and \$465 per month for Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 3:20pm or \$290 per month for Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The students may participate in the school lunch program, snack milk program, and Before and After School Care Program. They also receive Music and Physical Education classes if they attend all 5 days. Preschool students do not need to follow the dress code included in the handbook.

All 3 year old preschool students pay a snack/field trip/fundraising fee of \$50 (to reserve their spot) and \$190 per month for Tuesday and Thursday from 8:00am to 3:20pm. The students may participate in the school snack milk program, school lunch program, and Before and After School Care Program. Preschool students do not need to follow the dress code included in the handbook.

Lunch

The lunch cost is \$2.85 per student meal. All students are welcome and encouraged to apply for Free and/or Reduced Lunch through the form sent out in the summer. All forms must be turned in to the school by 30 full school days after the first day of school. All students who attend school for a full day are served lunch including the Preschool students. Adult lunches are \$3.50 each. The complete lunch information can be found below in Appendix B.

Snack Milk

Students in preschool through 2nd grade can receive snack milk each day of school. Payment must be given with the beginning of the year lunch and snack milk payment form for each child and paid prior to the first day of school. No Quarterly payments will be accepted.

Schedule and Attendance:

It is important to a student's success at St. Patrick Catholic School that the habit of regular and punctual attendance is formed.

Regular School Day: A regular school day for students in 4 year old preschool through 8th grade at St. Patrick's School begins at 8:00a.m. The tardy bell rings at 8:00a.m. We begin the day with Holy Mass for all the students at 8:05a.m. Students who arrive between 7:00 and 7:40a.m. will be required to go to Extended Care. Upon entering the building or coming from Extended Care, students will wait in the atrium until dismissed to their classroom at 7:45a.m when the bell rings. All students are dismissed at 3:20p.m. At dismissal time students are to leave the building from the south door and go directly home. All students will exit the school at 3:20p.m. and those who are still at school at 3:30pm will be required to go to Extended Care. If a student is to report somewhere other than home, we ask that the office be notified. Extended Care is available until 6:00p.m. each day including early dismissal days.

Early Dismissal: All of our early dismissal days will be a 1:00p.m. dismissal. The first Friday of each month will be an early dismissal for staff meetings. You can see all of the early dismissal dates on the calendar for the school year. After School Care will be available on these days until 6:00p.m.

Attendance

- Students may not leave the school grounds without permission from the principal.

- It is highly recommended that students do not have appointments during school hours. Also, Absences due to vacation are highly discouraged. Anytime a parent or parents are out of town, the office is to be notified of whom to contact.
- If your child is going to be absent for any reason, parents must call or email (st.patricklincolnschool@cdolinc.net) to inform the school of this absence before 9:00a.m. We will need to know the reason for the absence in order to complete the state requirement of reporting our schools absences report.
- All students coming or leaving during the school day must be checked in and out of the office.
- If you have a planned or sick absent you must notify the office. If you would like homework it is the responsibility of the parent to request it. If the parent requests the homework it can be sent home with a sibling or be in the office at the end of the school day for pick up by the parent at the teacher/principals discretion.
- Truancy is an absence from school or class without the knowledge and consent of the parents and/or the school authority. Every truancy will be dealt with on an individual basis.

Absences Policy:

Stage 1: When a student accumulates 5 unexcused absences a letter will be sent home to notify the parents.

Stage 2: When a student accumulates 10 unexcused absences a letter will be sent home to notify the parents.

Stage 3: When a student accumulates 15 unexcused absences, a letter will be sent home in which the the student and his/her parent(s) will be required to meet with administration to discuss concerns and develop a plan of action to avoid any more absences or tardies. If disciplinary action is warranted, it will be determined at the meeting.

Stage 4: Should a student reach 20 unexcused absences then the students and his parents will be required to meet with the principal and pastor. More disciplinary action may be required. Possible disciplinary actions may include suspension, expulsion, retention in current grade, report to Child Protective Services. A student who misses more than 20 school days for the entire year has failed to meet the attendance requirement for the school and for the state of Nebraska.

Tardiness: Students are considered tardy if they are not in the building by the 8:00a.m bell. Tardy students should go to the office to leave backpacks and coats before heading to Mass. Students who arrive late due to an early morning appointment will receive an excused tardy if they have a note from the doctor's office. Students who do not have a doctor's note or administration determined valid excuse will be considered unexcused. If you know your child is going to be late for an appointment it is essential you notify the office.

Tardy Policy: In accordance with diocesan policy that "class time must be made up if there is no valid reason for tardiness", the following stages will be followed in regards to tardies.

Stage 1: When a student accumulates 10 unexcused tardies, a letter will be sent home to notify the parents.

Stage 2: When a student accumulates 20 unexcused tardies, the student and his/her parent(s) will be required to meet with the principal to discuss concerns and develop a plan of action to avoid any more absences or tardies.

Stage 3: Should a student reach 30 unexcused tardies then the students and his parents will be required to meet with the principal and pastor. If a change of the pattern of tardies cannot be agreed upon and implemented then the family may be required to find an alternative educational institution.

The administration reserved the right to address unique circumstances as needed.

School Closing Procedure: St. Patrick's School follows the Lincoln Public Schools regarding weather closings. If the Lincoln Public Schools are closed, St. Patrick's School will also be closed for the day. In the event St. Patrick's school has school on a day when Lincoln Public Schools are not in session, watch/listen to television Channels 10/11 or 8, and radio stations KFOR or KLIN. Parents will also be notified by email if the school is closed or has an early dismissal that was not expected.

Discipline and Conduct

An effective system of discipline allows teachers, students, staff, and administration to work together in a positive environment so learning can take place. All members of the school community should be respectful, courteous, and should reflect our Catholic values and virtues. Each member of the school community is expected to follow these guidelines. It is understood that individual classroom teachers may have differing classroom rules and expectations. Students are expected to adhere to the expectations outlined by their teachers as well as the school-wide expectations listed below.

Basic Rules:

- Students will show respect for people in authority, and follow their directions immediately.
- Student will show respect for fellow students, school property, and their property.
- No students may have in his/her possession, on or near school property, any item that may potentially be dangerous.
- Students will use appropriate language in accordance with Catholic morals and values.
- Students are expected to play safely, be kind to others, and keep hands and feet to themselves.
- Students may NOT throw snowballs, or chew gum.

Violations of any of the above rules or classroom rules will result in consequences which may include but are not limited to: detention, loss of privileges, a telephone call home, missed recess time, staying after school, or restitution for damages. If necessary, a student will receive an in or out of school suspension or expulsion.

Junior high Policy (6, 7, and 8th grade): At St. Patrick's School we want to help middle school students develop skills in successful study habits, discipleship, responsibility, and appropriate behavior to help them prepare to be successful now and in high school. Students who do not follow expectations set forth for their behavior and academic work may receive demerits/ detentions any time they are on school property. Students must carry their demerit cards around with them during the school day. Demerits are given for the following reasons: dress code, tardy, inappropriate behavior, minor disturbance, dishonesty, food in classroom, not following directions, disagreeing inappropriately or not accepting consequences/criticism, offensive language/gestures; excessive talking; disrespect; other. Demerits are given at the teacher's discretion. If a circumstance warrants, an automatic detention or another consequence may be given.

Once a student receives five demerits, a detention will be served. Detentions will be served during the lunch and recess of the student on that day or the day to follow. The student will be given a job card to complete while in from recess. The jobs vary from cleaning to helping teachers throughout the school. If a student loses a demerit card, they will receive an automatic detention and letter home. If a student is given a detention the student will be required to call home and notify the parent as well as an email will be sent notifying the parents including the scan of the document showing the reasoning for the detention.

Discipline Policy:

Stage 1: After a student has 5 detentions a letter will be sent home indicating concern and requesting a meeting to be set up with the student, parents, and teachers to discuss the reasons for the infractions and what can be done to help the student become more successful in following the expectations.

Stage 2: After a student has 8 detentions another letter will be sent home indicating concern and requesting a meeting to be set up with the student, parents, teachers, and principal to discuss the reasons for the infractions and what can be done to help the student become more successful in following the expectations. The student will then be put on a discipline contract in which specific needs will be discussed and agreed upon. Once this student reaches this discipline stage, the student will serve an in school suspension in place of detention.

Stage 3: After a student has 11 detentions a meeting will be set up with the pastor and principal to discuss the discipline contract infractions and the action the school will take. Possible disciplinary actions may include suspension, expulsion, or retention in current grade. The student will be issued an out of school suspension with direct consequences should the actions continue.

The administration of the school reserves the right to review the discipline policy and adjust stages as necessary.

Liturgy and Sacraments:

Mass: St. Patrick's students and teachers attend Holy Mass daily at 8:05a.m. Students participate in the Mass through prayerful participation as well as grade appropriate functions such as reading, serving, and taking up the collections. Students are expected to actively participate in the Mass. Through our reverent participation in the Holy Mass, we give glory to God. Parents are welcome to join the student body in worship whenever possible.

Holy Communion: Catholic students who are able and spiritually prepared to receive Communion are encouraged to do so. Those students who are unable to receive Holy Communion (in grades 3-8) are expected to receive a blessing.

Confession: Student will be given the opportunity once a month to go to Confession during the school day.

Adoration/ Benediction: All students will attend an Adoration period with their class as well as Benediction at 1:30p.m. on the First Friday of the month. Families are welcome to attend.

Stations of the Cross: All students will pray the Stations of the Cross on Fridays during the season of Lent.

Sacramental Preparation: St. Patrick's school will assist parents of children in the second grade in preparation necessary to receive the sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. We will assist parents of children in the fifth grade with the sacrament of Confirmation. Children will receive instruction at school prior to the reception of the Sacrament. The dates will be posted in the newsletter and be on the calendar that is sent home.

Academics:

Late Work Policy:

When a student is not prepared for class due to any missing or incomplete assignment, the following procedure is in place:

-The student will be sent to the office to contact parent. They are to notify the parent that the assignment is missing or incomplete.

*Students can earn consequence as listed below:

-1 late/missing assignment, long-term projects such as book reports, papers, etc. not turned in or are incomplete on due date requires a call home day of event.

-5 late/missing assignments requires a call home and a consequence of missing recess to stay inside and work on homework.

*Grades on late or missing assignments will still be subject to "Late Work" policies in the student handbook. A demerit will not be earned for late/missing work.

*A meeting with parents and staff will be set up for any student earning six or more working lunch referrals.

Report Cards: Report cards are issued each quarter in Kindergarten through 8th grade. The student is evaluated according to his/her progress and effort. Grades on report cards are final. Parents are asked to view and discuss their child's report card with him/her, sign, and return the envelope to school. Preschool students will receive report cards at Parent/Teacher Conferences.

Progress Reports: All students in grades four through eight will receive a progress report towards the middle of each quarter. Parents are asked to view and discuss their child's progress report with him/her, sign, and return the envelope to school.

Grade Marking Scale: Grade 1-8:

A+	99-100%	B+	91-92%	C+	83-84%	D+	71-70%
A	95-98%	B	87-90%	C	79-82%	D	72-74%
A-	93-94%	B-	85-86%	C-	77-78%	D-	70-71%

Failing is anything below 70%

Kindergarten:

H-High Satisfactory

S-Satisfactory

D-Doing Well

N-Needs Improvement

Testing: The Iowa Test of Basic Skills is administered every spring in grades 3-8. These tests are standardized tests that can measure learning, but are not the only indicators of academic achievement. Score reports will be distributed prior to the end of the school year.

Honor Roll: The Honor Roll is published at the end of each quarter in grades 4-8. The Honor Roll will include those students who maintain at least a B in each of their academic classes: English, math, science, social studies, and religion as well as specialty classes: music, art, computer, and Physical Education.

Parent-Teacher Conferences: Parent-Teacher conferences serve as an excellent opportunity for communication with teachers regarding the progress of your child. Conferences allow teachers and parents to share successes of each student as well as concerns. Parent/guardians are expected to attend scheduled conferences. Scheduled parent-teacher conferences will be held in the fall and spring. Please consult the calendar for conference dates and times. The school office will be in communication with you about these times and dates.

Library: The library and library books are a vital part of a student's education. Books are checked out for a period of two weeks. Children with overdue books will not be allowed to check out other books until the overdue books are returned. A fine will be assessed for damaged books. If a book cannot be repaired, the student will be required to pay for a replacement book.

Band: Instrumental music is offered to students at St. Patrick's in grades 5-8. The lessons are free, but the students are required to provide their own instruments. Lessons are given both privately and in groups. There are band performances twice a year.

Textbook/Supplies: It is the responsibility of each student to give proper care to all instructional equipment and supplies. The school furnishes textbooks and a daily planner for each student. Other school supplies such as crayons, pencils, paper, etc. must be provided by the student. St. Patrick's school may obtain textbooks furnished by Lincoln Public Schools through the Textbook Loan program. To receive these books, parents will be asked to complete forms and return to school in a timely manner to receive these books.

Field Trips: Educational trips will be planned during the school day throughout the year. Parents will be given sufficient advance notices to parents/guardians prior to planned trips. Permission slips must be signed and returned to each individual field trip in order for your child to participate. Since St. Patrick's school does not have a bus, volunteer drivers will be taking the students on trips, or the students may walk if the point of interest is near the school. Any volunteer driver must provide the necessary assurance of insurance and have a background check.

Athletics: In physical education classes the children are taught games, team play, cooperation, and sportsmanship (See Appendix C: Physical Education Dress Code). The 7th and 8th grade classes may play team sports through the Catholic Athletic League (6th graders are allowed to play if additional players are necessary). St. Patrick's athletes will observe the guidelines established by the league. Students who wish to participate in the sport league are to present a permission slip from the parent/guardian, a physical form from the family doctor, and are expected to maintain positive academic standing and appropriate behavior. If a student has a D or F in any class, they will not be allowed to practice or play in games until the grade is raised. If a student's behavior in class is inappropriate, they may be removed from the team. Transportation to and from games and practice is the responsibility of the parents.

Other Policies:

Visitors: For security reasons, the doors remain locked to the school during the school day. Visitors and parents are asked to ring the bell to be admitted in the building. All visitors must report to the office, sign in, and wear a visitor badge while in the building. To ensure that learning is not interrupted, parents should not visit the classroom unless arrangements have

been made in advance with the classroom teacher. Appointments with teachers should be scheduled for before or after school.

Volunteers: Volunteers are a tremendous asset to the school community. Volunteers should contact the principal to find ways to best utilize their time and talents in our school. If a volunteer will have contact with students, they are to receive a background check and watch a child abuse prevention video. Volunteers to the school must be adults unless the principal gives special permission.

Big Brothers Big Sisters: St. Patrick's is fortunate to have many mentoring matches with the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. These young adults have received background checks and program facilitators monitor the matches. Please inquire in the office if you would like your student to participate in this program.

Teammates: St. Patrick's is fortunate to have many mentoring matches with the Teammates program. These young adults have received background checks and program facilitators monitor the matches. Please inquire in the office if you would like your student to participate in this program

Communication: Effective communication between the home and school is crucial to the success of students. Parents may leave messages for teachers by calling or emailing (st.patricklincolnschool@cdolinc.net) the school office (402) 466-3710 between 7:30a.m. and 4:00p.m. Calls will be returned at the earliest convenience. Parents may communicate by e-mail using the teacher's first and last name@cdolinc.net. (For example: first-last@cdolinc.net) If there are classroom concerns about a student, please contact the classroom teacher directly before contacting the administration. Written communication from the office and lunch notices will be sent home on Fridays with the oldest child in the family. Each Friday a newsletter from the office will be sent home electronically through email. The email address(es) used will be those on file for the family. If you cannot receive an email version of this newsletter, please let the office know and a paper copy may be issued to you.

Cell phones: Students are encouraged to leave cell phones at home. If it is necessary for a student to bring a cell phone to school, it must be left in the school office during the day. Students are not allowed to use cell phones on school grounds. If a student has a cell phone during school hours, it will remain in the office until a parent picks it up.

Electronic Devices and Toys: Students are not to bring toys to school unless they are part of a "show and tell" activity in the student's classroom. Items should be kept in a student's backpack. St. Patrick's School does not accept responsibility for lost or stolen items.

Vandalism and Damage: Student may be assessed the cost of repair or replacement of school property if they have been guilty of destroying, marring, or losing it, whether through their carelessness or deliberate actions. School books must be covered at all times to help protect them from damage. Worn covers should be replaced. Student will be fined, in whole or part, for damaged books at the end of the year.

Treats and Snacks: Children may bring treats for birthdays provided there are enough for each child in the class. Treats should be individual, easy to distribute, and not messy. Invitations to private parties should not be handed out on school property unless there is an invitation for every child in the classroom. Healthy snacks are encouraged. No TREE NUTS are allowed in St. Patrick Catholic School for any reason.

Health and Safety Policies: The teachers and other school personnel safeguard the children while they are at school. The security system enables us to be extra vigilant with locked doors and cameras. Supervision and normal precautions are taken to aid in the safety of all students. Injured and ill students are brought to the school office. Office personnel will decide if the parents need to be informed or if the injured student is to be sent home.

Treatment of Injuries/ Medication: The office personnel may administer first-aid for minor injuries. In case of illness the office personnel may take temperatures of students. Parents will be notified if the injury or illness needs further attention. All non-prescription drugs must be brought to the office in the container in which they were sold. The bottle or box must be

labeled with the student's name. All prescription drugs must be brought to the office in the original prescription bottle. A medication form (which can be picked up in the office or found online) must be filled out and signed by the parent of the student.

Appendix A: Stewardship Information

Appendix B: School Lunch and Snack Milk Program

Appendix C: Dress Code and Appearance

Appendix D: Physical Education Dress Code

Appendix E: Computer and Internet Use Policy

Appendix F: St. Patrick Before and After School Program

Appendix G: Drop off and Pick up Procedure

Appendix A:

Catholic Education in the Diocese of Lincoln St. Patrick Catholic School Parish Stewardship Scholarship Information

Philosophy

The Catholic Diocese of Lincoln has established a school system in order to fulfill, in part, the mandate of Christ to teach the Gospel to the whole world. (Matthew 28:18-20) Catholic schools in the Diocese of Lincoln help to form students in Christ by means of teaching doctrine, celebrating Liturgy and prayer, building community in Christ, and fostering Christ-like service, in order to assist parents in their duty as the primary educators of the whole child.

Educational Role of Catholic Parents

Parents and those who take their place are bound by the obligation and possess the right of educating their offspring. Catholic parents also have the duty and right of choosing those means and institutions through which they can provide more suitably for the Catholic education of their children, according to local circumstances.¹

Since parents have given children their life, they are bound by the most serious obligation to educate their offspring and therefore must be recognized as the primary and principal educators.²

Role of the Catholic School

Among the means to foster education, the Christian faithful are to hold schools in esteem; schools are the principal assistance to parents in fulfilling the function of education.³

Catholic Schools exist to assist parents in their role as primary educators of their children. We work with parents to provide the best formation in the faith and the best educational opportunities available. We work with parents to help children live as disciples of Jesus and to achieve their academic potential in seeking His will for their lives.

Funding of Catholic Schools in Lincoln

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Lincoln operate primarily on the financial contributions of parishioners of supporting parishes. Tuition only covers approximately 10% of the costs associated with a child's education. Whereas public schools are funded through taxes, Catholic schools do not receive any direct financial assistance from the city or state. It is the work of the entire Catholic community to ensure that children have access to a Catholic education. A significant percentage of a supporting parish's resources are allocated to Catholic education.

Christian Stewardship

- I. Mature disciples make a conscious, firm decision, carried out in action, to be followers of Jesus Christ no matter the cost to themselves.
- II. Beginning in conversion, change of mind and heart, this commitment is expressed not in a single action, nor even in a number of actions over a period of time, but in an entire way of life. It means committing one's very self to the Lord.
- III. Stewardship is an expression of discipleship, with the power to change how we understand and live out our lives. Disciples who practice stewardship recognize God as the origin of life, the giver of freedom, the source of all they have and are and will be. They are deeply aware of the truth that "The Lord's are the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it" (Ps 24:1). They know themselves to be recipients and caretakers of God's many gifts. They are grateful for what they have received and eager to cultivate their gifts out of love for God and one another.⁴

Stewardship of Time, Talent, and Treasure

All that we have is a gift from God, our Father and the Creator of all things. Our lives, families, homes, jobs, talents, and even the air we breathe – God bestows his blessings on us freely and generously. The most important gift is Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, whose life was given on the cross for us. As we reflect on these gifts, our hearts are filled with gratitude for His generosity. Stewardship is the way that we demonstrate this gratitude and show God and others that we are grateful for all the blessings He has given to us.

For the Catholic School to succeed in fulfilling its mission, parents, children, teachers, and the parish community must work together for the good of our children. Each person must contribute to the educational endeavor and commit to living as a steward of God's gifts.

Time

How we choose to spend our time indicates what we value. We have limited time and it is important to thoughtfully consider how we choose to spend it. It is essential that each member of the parish and school communities offer their time to the advancement of these communities.

- How will you spend your time to develop your and your family's relationships with Christ?
- Is your family committed to prayer on a daily basis?
- How will you contribute your time for the benefit of your parish?
- How will you commit to contributing your time for the benefit of your Catholic school, including attendance at parent teacher conferences, participation in the Home and School Association, and volunteering at the school and at events?

Talent

God has blessed each of us with unique skills, gifts, and talents. Sharing these gifts with our parish and school communities allows us to give what we have received and to share who we are. In doing so, we can build the body of Christ for the benefit of these communities.

- In what ways can I uniquely contribute to our parish and school communities?
- What skills do I have that can help our communities become a greater reflection of Christ's love?
- How can I share myself with others within the parish and school community? Can I help plan and organize events, be a mentor for a child, serve food, clean facilities, serve on a committee, act as a parent representative, complete a repair project, or be a classroom assistant?

Treasure

In gratitude for the material and monetary blessings we have received, we should feel compelled to give to those in need and to the Church. We are asked to give sacrificially, not only from our excess. It is not only the amounts of our financial contributions that matters, but whether they are truly sacrificial and are motivated by our gratitude to God. In the Gospels, when Jesus saw a woman contribute two small coins to the temple treasury, he said "I tell you truly, this poor widow put in more than all the rest; for those others have all made offerings from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has offered her whole livelihood." (Luke 21:1-4)

- Do I give money to the Church in proportion to the blessings I have received?
- Do I thoughtfully consider how I spend my money?
- Am I committed to contributing financially to my Church?
- What amount of money can I give to the Church each week?
- Do my financial contributions indicate that I am living as an active disciple of Jesus?

Appendix B:

School Lunch Program:

St. Patrick's School participates in the National School Lunch Program. Monthly menus will be sent home and are available online. There are applications for free or reduced meals available in the office. Everyone is strongly encouraged to apply. All applications are held in absolute confidentiality. These letters and applications are sent home with students prior to the school year and are available in the office at all times. If a family financial circumstance changes at any time in the school year, you have the right to apply at any time in the school year for free or reduced meals.

New this year we will have a way to pay lunch account balances online. Please see the note and letter sent home about this in order to participate or contact the school office for more information.

Prices: Hot lunch for students is \$2.85 per day. All charges must be paid through the myschool bucks account or by a check/cash dropped off to the office. No payment will be accepted from students in the lunch line.

Family and friends are welcome to join us for lunch and may purchase a hot lunch for \$3.50. If you plan on coming to eat school lunch please let the office know by 9:00a.m. of that day.

A-la-carte menu items that are available:

Milk is \$.50 per carton

Salad a-la-carte is \$.50 per trip only available for 3rd to 8th grade students and adults (limit of one trip per meal)

On the 15th of the month, all families with a positive balance of less than \$30 in their account will be notified by letter. When a family account reaches a balance of negative \$20, the family will be notified that the student(s) will be required to bring a lunch from home as any student whose family account has a balance of negative \$20 or more will not be allowed to purchase a lunch on account until such time as the negative balance is paid. Alternate meals are not provided. Any positive balance or unpaid debt at the end of the year will be carried over to the next school year unless the last student in the family is in his/her final year in the school in which case the account will be settled at the end of the year. For accounts with a credit, a check will be issued to the family. Payment must be made before the student leaves for negative account balances.

Rules:

- 1: Cold lunches from home will not be allowed in the refrigerator. Students who bring lunches will not be allowed to use the microwave.
- 2: Children are not allowed in the food preparation or clean up area.
- 3: To get any food from the counter you must have a tray.
- 4: Please and Thank you are always appreciated.

Non-Discrimination Statement:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income derived from any public assistance program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities) If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complain Form, found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339; or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Snack Milk Program:

Snack milk is offered to students in Preschool through 2nd grade. In order for your child to receive snack milk, you must pay the fee for the entire school year by the first day of school. This covers the cost for the entire year.

Fees are:

3 year old preschool: \$50 per child; 4 year old preschool through 2nd grade: \$90 per child

Appendix C:

School Dress Code

Personal appearance affects one's attitude and behavior. Good grooming exhibited through cleanliness, decency, and neatness indicates self-respect. The learning atmosphere is promoted when students look their best. We ask parents to ensure that their children are dressed appropriately for school. All clothes must be clean, without tears, holes, tattered, or faded and appropriately sized. The administration reserves the right to make discretionary judgments regarding the appropriateness of student dress.

If you need assistance acquiring an appropriate uniform, please contact the office.

Relaxed Fit Trousers

- must be solid color: navy blue or tan
- no** exterior pockets/Cargo pants
- no** stretch pants, leggings without skirt/skort, denim jeans, skinny pants or sweatpants

Shorts/Capri Pants

- solid colors: navy blue or tan
- length should be past the fingertip
- no** exterior pockets/Cargo shorts
- no** biker shorts, gym shorts, denim shorts, or tight shorts
- season ends Oct. 15th & begins March 15th ...this includes skirts without tights/leggings

Jumpers/Skirts:

- jumpers must be solid color: navy blue or tan
- length should be at most 2" above the knee or longer
- may be worn year round with the appropriate undergarment:
 - if a skort** no additional undergarment required during shorts season
 - leggings must be worn during the winter season (October 16th - March 14th)
 - if an open bottomed jumper/skort:**
 - shorts must be worn underneath during shorts season (season ends Oct. 15th and begins March 15th)
 - leggings may be worn underneath year round and must be solid color: navy blue, black, white or gray

Belts

- required** 3rd-8th Grade
- must be solid color: black or brown

Shirts:

- Polo shirts are **required**
- must be solid color: white, forest green or navy
- must have a full collar
- must be worn tucked in or banded
- may have school logo on the Polo
- may be short or long sleeved
- undershirts (long or short sleeve) should be black, white, or gray only
- no** denim shirts or "t-shirts" as an outer garment

Sweaters/Sweatshirts:

- may be a cardigan sweater, V-neck sweater, or sweatshirt (solid color: white, forest green, black or navy)
- St. Patrick's sweatshirt or St. Patrick's fleece jacket (purchased from school order: past or present)

Jewelry

- small chains with religious medals or crosses are allowed around the neck
- small religious bracelets or a wristwatch are allowed for boys and girls (will be confiscated if they become a distraction)
- stud earrings (No dangles or hoops) worn by girls only in the lower lobe of the ear

Makeup/Nail Polish

- no** makeup
- nail polish must be light/pastel or neutral in color (girls only)
- no** nail designs

Boys' Hair

- Hair should be clean, a natural hair color, and neatly kept.
- Sideburns are to be of a reasonable length and not to go below the middle of the ear.
- must not fall below the eyebrows, over the top of the ears, or past the top of the collar
- floppy or spiked hair, shaved areas, fades, Mohawks, faux Mohawks, faddish styles, and pony tails are not allowed
- must be clean shaven with no sideburns.

Girls' Hair

- Hair should be clean, a natural hair color, and neatly kept.
- must be pulled back away from the face
- Headbands and hair accessories should be simple and not a distraction
- bangs should not be worn past eyebrows
- must not be dyed or adorned with permanent accessories

Footwear

- athletic shoes **required**
- all shoes must be laced all the way up and tied properly
- no** sandals
- no** boots
- snow boots are allowed with a change of shoes
- all shoes must be worn with socks
- socks** are to be solid in color; navy blue, black, white or gray and contain very little brand markings of the same colors.

Non-Uniform Days:

- non-uniform days will be announced at school and sent home in the weekly newsletter.
- students may not wear sweatpants or sleeveless tops.
- jeans must be in good condition; blue in color, no skinny jeans or tight pants are allowed
- SPIRIT DAY: includes St. Patrick's shirt and appropriate blue jeans only.

The following companies sell dress code appropriate clothing:

JD Uniform: jduniform.com/ (402)904.3545

JC Penney: jcpenny.com/ (402)466.2222

Dennis Uniform: dennisuniform.com/ (402)496.9911

Appendix D:

Physical Education Dress Code

Students in K-4:

They must be wearing athletic tennis shoes on days of class
-Tennis shoes do not include converse, or ked type of shoes.

Students in 5-8:

Clothing must be clean and modest. It may not be torn, frayed, too tight or sloppy

Bottoms:

Athletic Shorts or Pants

No Jeans, No Cut-offs, No biker shorts (tight, spandex shorts)

Leggings/Spandex tights are ONLY acceptable with shorts on top

Shorts must be a length that extends past your fingertips

Sweatpants made of nylon or windbreaker material or Hanes sweatpants are ok (No Pajamas, yoga pants, or tight fitting pants (unless shorts are worn on top)

Pants must be plain with only brand markings (no prints)

Tops:

Loose Fitting Athletic T-shirts with Sleeves (St. Patrick's t-shirt, T-shirt from a 5k... perfect examples)

No See through Material, No Sleeve-less, no alterations to the shirt.

Appropriate logos (No Language, Drinking, Smoking etc...)

No Dress shirts/ Trendy Tops

Footwear:

Non-marking athletic tennis shoes (Tennis shoes do not include converse, or ked type of shoes)

No boots (dress or snow)

Socks must follow school uniform policy

Hair must be up out of the student's face (ponytails recommended!)

Any necklaces or bracelets are to be removed...if glasses are needed for the classroom only they are encouraged to be left on their desk during PE time for safety.

****Students in 5-8 must bring deodorant for personal hygiene****

If dress code expectations are not consistently followed, it will be reflected in their PE grade

Appendix E:

Computer and Internet Use Policy

General Guidelines: St. Patrick's School strives to provide an exciting, interesting, and motivating learning environment that allows student to develop their God-given capabilities. To help them achieve this goal, the school provides selected advanced technology for students to explore, investigate, design, and create in a Christian environment. Technology is a very important part of a child's education, as it is used to challenge them in all subjects.

Technology and the Internet are available in all classrooms, in the computer lab, and also in the library for educational purposes only. With this access come important individual, family, and school responsibilities. Students will be held accountable for computer and Internet usage. For its part, the school will provide monitoring to the extent possible. This includes software protection for undesirable Internet sites and password protection of operating systems and key files. This means that student may have comparatively more restricted access to computer files and the Internet than at home. St. Patrick's School requests parental support in reinforcing these restrictions.

The Diocese of Lincoln provides Office 365 email and online documents, there should be no expectation of any right to privacy. Students are to use the cloud services for education only, and consideration should be given to users who may have limited access by avoiding large attachments and sharing documents only for educational purposes. Accessing information or using the computer in any way counter to the St. Patrick's mission statement (such as accessing or providing materials to sites which include information on drug use, pornography, bigotry, hate, violence, or criminal behavior) is not allowed. Students doing research on controversial issues must receive permission from their teacher and/or other staff member before using such Internet sites.

Students are not allowed to alter settings or add software without permission from a faculty or staff member. Unauthorized access of computer login, directories, and other software hacking is prohibited. Students are to respect the privacy rights of others by accessing only their own documents. No student, or student's parent or guardian, without the expressed prior written authorization of the school's principal, may utilize the school's name or identifying logo. Any such unauthorized use of the school's name or identifying logo, if committed by a student, may subject the student to disciplinary action. Negative or unjust portrayals of school or persons associated with the school, on any website (including social networking sites) may be subject to disciplinary measures. This applies to actions initiated either in or out of school.

Acceptable Use: Computers and the Internet are available at St. Patrick's School for school assignments. In accordance with the St. Patrick's School Mission statement, student will be held accountable for computer and Internet usage. We expect students to conduct online activities with courtesy, honesty, and respect for others; and to observe all school rules and policies as states in the handbook.

Unacceptable Use: Unacceptable use includes, but are not limited to, the following:

- Activities that are not educational in nature
- Activities that are illegal, dangerous, or destructive
- Use or alteration of another person's account; violation of privacy or the integrity of others' files
- Cyber-bullying; sending or displaying offensive messages/pictures; using obscene language; harassing, insulting, or attacking others
- Copyright violation or plagiarism
- Use of social networking sites, chat rooms, interactive games, instant messaging, non-school related bulletin boards, blogs, or personal email. Reminder that it is illegal under federal law for anyone under 13 to be on any social networking site without parental permission.
- Only students 13 and older may legally download home or mobile applications of Office 365 – always ask for parent permission
- Hacking or attempting to violate or change files
- Downloading programs or installing software
- Altering computer settings especially control panel settings
- Damaging computers, systems, or networks
- Use of technology for personal gain
- Financial transactions

Plagiarism: Students at St. Patrick's School may not plagiarize. We define plagiarism as any of the following:

- Word-for-word copying from a source
- Paraphrasing without proper citation
- Using ideas without proper citation
- Using graphics without proper citation

Consequences: If any part of the student's assignment is plagiarized, they will receive a score of 0.

Cyber-Bullying Policy: Cyber-bullying includes, but is not limited to the following misuses of technology: harassing, teasing, intimidating, threatening, or terrorizing another student or staff member by way of any technological tool, such as sending or posting inappropriate or derogatory

email messages, instant messages, text messages, digital pictures or images, or website postings. Cyber-bullying can last a long time and be very detrimental to the victim. Cyberbullying in any form, at any time, will NOT be tolerated.

Appendix F:

St. Patrick's Extended Care Program

Philosophy, Goals and Eligibility:

This program has been created to serve all families with children in Preschool thru 8th Grade enrolled at St. Patrick's School. As we strive in our efforts to help your children grow spiritually and academically, we will provide a safe, positive and enjoyable environment for your child.

Right to Amend:

The program director reserves the right to amend this handbook at any time. If amendments to the handbook are made, each registered family will receive a notice of the amendment and will be asked to attach it to their existing handbook. In the unlikely event that fees or hours of operation change during the school year, a 30-day notice will be given.

Enrollment Procedures:

All school students must be enrolled in the program and must fill out the St. Patrick Extended Care Program. Families need to enroll each year.

Hours of Operation:

The program will be available to your child every day school is in session, from 7:00 to 7:45am. On a normal school day after school all students will go outside from 3:20 to 3:30pm and the program will begin upon their arrival back in school at 3:30pm and last until 6:00pm. On early dismissal days when students are dismissed at 1:00pm, extended care will begin at 1:10pm and go until 6:00pm that day. This will include unforeseen early dismissals, such as weather related closings. All students who are at school before 7:45am and after 3:30pm will be required to be in the Extended Care Program room. The program will not be available for your child(ren) on the days school is not in session.

Program Structure:

Our program is a supervised play/recreational program. The type of play encouraged in our program is not structured. One of the goals for extended care is to foster language and social development of all children. There will be physical activity and down time. Students will be fed a healthy, nutritious snack, followed by physical activity outside on the playground when the weather permits. In case of inclement weather, students will go to the gym. After physical activity, students will engage in quiet games individually or in small groups. Students will be encouraged to work on homework, but we will not take the responsibility of the homework from the child. Homework lab will be available for the students to attend in an alternate room and the same rates and rules will apply. Students wanting to check out to homework lab must tell a teacher after reporting to after school care room and they must check back in when done as well. Homework lab will run until 4:30pm every day that school is in session. Homework lab will not be open on days of Early Dismissal.

Parents must report to the extended care room to pick up their child from the homework lab.

The Extended Care Program will be in the Library. When picking up your children please use the south door facing the Church. The rules of discipline are the same as the school rules. If students fail to follow school rules, the situation will be discussed with parents and a solution will be determined. When a serious offense occurs, your student will receive a written incident report written by the teacher who witnesses the incident. After 3 incident reports, your child will not be allowed to attend after school care for 1 day. If your child receives 3 additional reports, they will be suspended from after school care for 1 week. Any more additional reports after that will be reviewed on a case by case basis. Suitable disciplinary consequences will be administered up to and including the possibility of a permanent suspension from after school care. When having someone other than the parent pick up your child(ren), a written notice on the enrollment form, in person, or by e mail must be submitted to a staff member. This individual may be asked to present a photo I.D. to prove their identification.

Fees:

The hourly fee for the program is \$3.40 per hour for the first child, \$3.40 per hour for the second child and \$1.75 flat daily fee for the third child in the same family. Subsequent children will not be charged. Thereby, the family maximum will not exceed \$6.80 per hour plus \$1.75 flat fee daily. You will be charged ONLY for the hours the child is actually in attendance.

A statement will be given to your child each Friday outlining the amount due for the care provided the previous Friday through Thursday. Payment is due at that time. If payment is not received before the next Thursday, your next statement on the subsequent Friday will show a \$10.00 late fee. On that Friday, your statement must be paid in full, including all late fees.

If your child is not picked up by 6:00pm, there will be an extra \$1 fee for every minute you are late. If a parent is unable to pick up their children by that time due to unforeseen circumstances, the parent needs to call the Director to let the Extended Care staff know about the delay the extra fee will still apply. The staff person on duty will stay with the child(ren) until parents arrive to pick up their child(ren).

Center Policies:

ILLNESS: If a child becomes ill while in the care of the Extended Care Program, parents will be called to come and pick up the child right away. The child must be fever free for 24 hours before they are able to attend Extended Care. In the event of contagious infections/illness, children cannot attend after school care until released by a doctor.

DISASTER PLAN: In the event of a natural or man-made disaster, such as carbon monoxide, gas leak, fire, tornado, flood, etc. students will evacuate the building. Parents will be contacted to come and pick up their children based on information from their enrollment forms.

COMMUNICATION: In the event of a grievance, concern, or question about any aspect of the Extended Care Program, please speak to one of the staff members. If you are not satisfied with the response, contact the Director. If all other avenues of resolution have failed, contact Fr. Schweiger at the rectory, (402) 466-2752.

There will be NO EXTENDED CARE on the day we get out for Christmas break and on the last day of school. Thank you.

Appendix G:

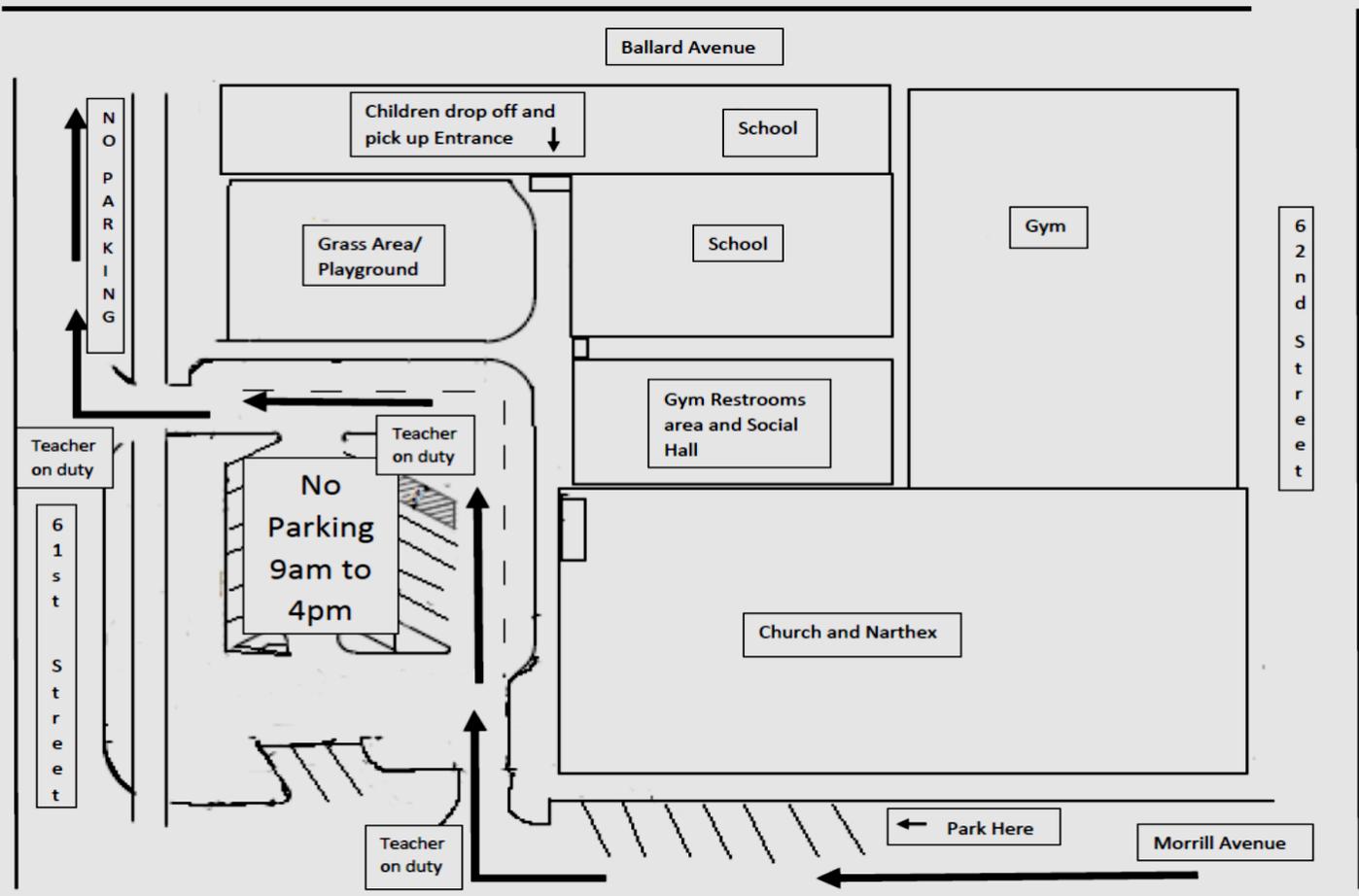
Drop off and Pick up

Instructions: All students MUST be dropped off and picked up on the SOUTH side of the school at the entrance marked on the map. No one may use Ballard Street as a pick up or drop off as previously done. For the safety of the children, DO NOT drop your child off on that side of the building as those doors will be locked and not in use at that time. Also, DO NOT try to pick your child up on that side, a staff member will be there and asking you to drive around to the other side of the building to get them.

All traffic must flow in the directions indicated on the map and you CANNOT get out of our car in the circle drive. There will only be right hand turns allowed. You will not be able to turn left in to or out of the circle drive. There is a lane for the dropping off and a lane to pull through. Be sure to pull all the way into the lane for dropping off so cars can get to the pull through lane. There will be staff directing cars to open spots. There will be no parking in the circle drive parking lot from 9:00am till 4:00pm.

The students must come to you to ensure constant flow of cars. If you want to park and walk to get your child(ren) you will need to park in the diagonal parking in front of the church, by the church across the street, or on the street. Students will not be able to walk to you to get in your car if you park there. You must come get them. They will remain in the sidewalk area in front of the school until a parent comes to the drop/pick up lane or until a parent comes and retrieves them.

If your child is walking home, please make sure your child's teacher knows and we will escort them across the street at the locations on the map where the teacher is stationed. The only students walking away from the circle drive will be those students who are walking home and have notified school. One of those is in front of the rectory and the other is in front of Mahoney Manor. These are the ONLY places students can cross the street. We want to make sure they are crossing safely. Thank you for your cooperation.



St. Patrick Catholic School Drop off and Pick up Route